

BARSTOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Public Information Office

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION Date: 7/1/2015 Contact: Chris Clarke Barstow Community College (760) 252-2411 ext. 7350 cclarke@barstow.edu

## Barstow Community College Accreditation Confirmed

Barstow, CA – Dr. Deborah DiThomas, Superintendent/President of the Barstow Community College District announced that she recently received a letter from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges reaffirming the accreditation of the Barstow college. This acknowledgement came as a result of the commission's review of the Midterm Report submitted by the college administration. The college accreditation process is a six year cycle. The next comprehensive review of the College's Educational Quality and Institutional Effectiveness will take place in the spring of 2018.

The 2015 Midterm Report and a copy of the accreditation letter are posted on the college website at: <a href="http://www.barstow.edu/accredit.html">http://www.barstow.edu/accredit.html</a>

Dr. DiThomas congratulated all of the College personnel, and gave special recognition to Stephen B. Eaton, Ed.S., Vice President of Academic Affairs, thanking him for his "leadership in our Accreditation efforts." She indicated that the BCCD Board of Trustees also extended their thanks and congratulations to all.

Mr. Eaton wrote an email to the college administration, faculty and staff, regarding the announcement and offered, "Thanks for all of the hard work taking place across the College moving us from good to GREAT."

The letter confirming the college's accreditation was sent to Dr. DiThomas on June 29<sup>th</sup> by Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D., President of the ACCJC. In the letter, Dr. Beno wrote, "I wish to encourage your continued work to ensure Barstow College's educational quality and to support student's success." She further acknowledged the cooperation and shared responsibility that exists between the college and the accreditor, and thanked Dr. DiThomas for sharing in that responsibility.

As stated in the College's mission statement, Barstow Community College continues to be a fully "accredited, open access institution of higher learning committed to providing our students, community, and military population with the educational tools needed to achieve personal goals and professional growth. To accomplish this, the college offers traditional and distance education courses, programs, and pathways designed to enhance student success, leadership development, and career opportunities, enabling all in the community to thrive in a changing global society." High Desert residents can learn more about the college and the services provided to the community by visiting the College's website: www.barstow.edu